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WASHINGTON
NICARAGUA-EAST

Sen. John East, R-N.C., citing classified CIA information, said Friday the United States should break off relations with Nicaragua because its Sandinista government is supporting leftist rebels in El Salvador.

East urged President Reagan to also suspend Nicaragua's most-favored-nation trading status and eliminate the Nicaraguan sugar import quota, which he said provides Nicaragua with "up to \$20 million annually in hard U.S. currency."

The senator said he had received "highly classified information from the CIA, which confirmed beyond doubt that Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviet Union are directly supporting and controlling the combat operations of the communist insurgency against the freely elected government of El Salvador."

East did not disclose any details of the information.

"Now that I am convinced in my own mind that Nicaragua is playing a primary role in supporting terrorism in El Salvador, I believe it is inappropriate for the United States to maintain normal diplomatic and trade relations with the communist regime of Managua," East said.

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